



## OFFICE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Water (4203)  
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### **DRAFT GUIDANCE MANUAL AND EXAMPLE NPDES PERMIT FOR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS**

- [Transmittal Memo](#) [PDF] - 6K
- [Draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations](#) [PDF] - 548K

*The draft "Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" are among the key actions of the USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations. Once finalized, they will provide EPA and state permit writers with a framework for issuing NPDES permits to concentrated animal feeding operations.*

#### **Background**

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (AFO Strategy), announced on March 9, 1999, is a key action of the President's Clean Water Action Plan. The AFO Strategy sets forth a range of flexible, common-sense actions to minimize the water quality and public health impacts of animal feeding operations, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of livestock production in the United States. The Strategy reflects extensive public comment, including eleven public listening sessions around the country.

USDA and EPA estimate that 95 percent of the 450,000 animal feeding operations will be encouraged to implement voluntary comprehensive nutrient management plans under the AFO Strategy. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 *concentrated* animal feeding operations will be required to develop comprehensive nutrient management plans as part of National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Approximately 2,000 permits have currently been issued for concentrated animal feeding operations. Concentrated animal feeding operations generally include the largest facilities (those with 1,000 or more animal units), facilities with unacceptable conditions such as direct discharge into waterways, and facilities that are significant contributors to water quality impairment.

In an effort to facilitate and improve implementation of the NPDES permitting program for concentrated animal feeding operations consistent with existing regulations, EPA has published this draft guidance manual and example permit. EPA will continue to provide opportunities for interested parties to offer

comments on our draft guidance documents and future proposed regulations.

### **Draft Guidance Manual**

A key objective of the USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy and this draft guidance is to accelerate issuance of NPDES permits for large concentrated animal feeding operations (e.g. operations with greater than 1,000 animal units) by January 2000. The guidance is intended to aid state and EPA regional permitting authorities in meeting this goal. In addition, the guidance provides information on:

- Which facilities need to apply for an NPDES permit
- The key elements of an NPDES permit for concentrated animal feeding operations
- The relationship between NPDES permits and comprehensive nutrient management plans
- The types of NPDES permits that may be issued to concentrated animal feeding operations
- Public notice requirements
- Co-permitting of corporate entities that exercise substantial operational control over a concentrated animal feeding operation
- Land application of manure and wastewater
- Monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **Example NPDES Permit**

EPA has prepared a draft example permit for state and EPA regional permitting authorities to use as a basis for both individual and general NPDES permits for concentrated animal feeding operations. The example permit demonstrates and provides additional information about how the guidance should be implemented.

### **Public Review and Comment**

EPA is providing the draft guidance manual and example permit for public review during a 60-day comment period. A notice of availability will be published in the Federal Register to this affect. Interested parties are requested to send their comments to Gregory Beatty via email at [beatty.gregory@epa.gov](mailto:beatty.gregory@epa.gov) or fax at 202.260.1460, or postal mail at:

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Copies of the Draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations may be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afo> on the Internet. If you need a paper copy of the draft guidance, please call EPA's Water Resource Center at (202) 260-7786.